

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1231

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION to honor the late Roy Claxton Acuff of Union County for his extraordinary contributions to the world of country music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich musical heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the history and contributions of Union County and is grateful for the positive impact the county has had on the State's musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, one such eminent Union Countian was the late Roy Claxton Acuff, widely acclaimed as one of the most talented and invigorating performers in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maynardville, Tennessee, Roy Acuff was born on September 15, 1903; he received a thorough education as well as experience directing the student body's singing in chapel while attending public schools as a youth; and

WHEREAS, at thirty-three years of age, he married Mildred Louise Douglas on Christmas day, and their happy union was soon blessed with a child, Roy Neil; and

WHEREAS, this humble, good-natured family man shared with all the world his love of life and God through his recordings and over fifty years of live performances at the Opry; and

WHEREAS, "The Precious Jewel," "Great Speckled Bird," "Wreck on the Highway," "Night Train to Memphis," "Beneath the Lonely Mountain of Clay," and the unforgettable "Wabash Cannonball" are just a sampling of his vast and diverse repertoire; and

WHEREAS, together with his band, The Smoky Mountain Boys (formerly The Crazy Tennesseans), Roy Acuff performed on Doc Hower's Medicine Show, on the Grand Ole Opry radio program, and on the famed Opry stage as well; and

WHEREAS, his flair for business was evident to anyone fortunate enough to work in conjunction with Acuff-Rose Publishing Company and Hickory Records, of which he was a co-owner; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his genius as a singer, fiddler, and bandleader, Roy Acuff also appeared in a host of films, including *Hi Neighbor*; *My Darling Clementine*; *Sing, Neighbor Sing*; *Cowboy Canteen*; and *Night Train to Memphis*; and

WHEREAS, from 1949 until 1971, soldiers lonesome for the music and laughter of home enjoyed Roy Acuff's yearly tours with the USO; and

WHEREAS, his generous gifts to the Baptist Church in Maynardville and the Union County Historical Society reflect Roy Acuff's deeply felt loyalty to his hometown; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Roy Acuff garnered innumerable awards and honors, such as being a nominee for governor of Tennessee in 1948, being named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1962, receiving the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, and earning the National Medal of Arts Award in 1991; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to the development of country and gospel music are truly immeasurable; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of the late Roy Claxton Acuff of Union County, whose legendary musical ability, business sense, and wit inspired the devotion of millions of fans and ensured that he will always reign as the "King of Country Music."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.